

JCA raffles a new car

By LINCOLN
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Herman Stewart, president of the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA), says everyone in the Black and Caribbean community stands to benefit from a project the association is undertaking at its North York headquarters.

The JCA is involved in a massive campaign to raise funds to renovate a section of the 23,000 square foot centre to include modern facilities for improving service to the public, particularly young people.

Stewart said the JCA plans call for refurbishing 18,000 square feet of the building.

"We want the money

so we can renovate it to put in a recreation facility that will help all the youngsters who are now hanging out at malls — especially those around the Jane and Finch corridor," he told *Share*.

"We also want to put in a Black resource centre so that all our youngsters will be able to go there and find material on their heritage," said Stewart.

"That's not just for Jamaicans. That's for the entire Afro-Canadian community."

The JCA acquired the building at 995 Arrow Road in March of last year, and has collected about \$75,000 for renovations through various fund-

raising efforts.

It's hoping to more than double the amount in a raffle which will be drawn later this month.

The first prize in the raffle, which cost \$5 a ticket, is a 1997 Ford Escort sedan with power steering, air conditioning, full wheel covers and a security system.

Second prize is two airline tickets to Jamaica, and the third prize is a 20-inch colour television.

Tickets are available at barber shops, hair salons and other Caribbean stores in the Greater Toronto Area, or by calling the JCA at (416) 746-5772.

The JCA is trying to raise \$100,000 through the raffle,

and Stewart has appealed to members of the community to support the venture.

"In order to raise the \$100,000 we have to sell 20,000 and we have sold maybe 7,000 tickets so far," he said.

Stewart said that apart from the services the renovated centre will offer, it also has added symbolic and community value.

It will "enhance our image" as a community and also provide space where groups can hold regular activities, he said.

The JCA raffle will be drawn during a fund-raising dance on Saturday, March 22, at the Ontario Federation of Labour auditorium, 15 Gervais Drive